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The Winter Solstice Ceremony at Walpi.¹ — In his address before Section H at the Detroit Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Dr. Washington Matthews said: "I believe, as a result of an extensive experience, that ceremony offers material for the study of human development equal to that offered by art, government, legend, or any other subject of ethnologic investigation" (*Journ. Am. Folk-Lore*, vol. x, p. 258). This material is being utilized by an increasing number of ethnologists, among whom Dr. Fewkes is one of the most active workers.

"The two solstices are marked epochs in the ritualistic life of the Tusayan Indians," but the ceremonies observed at the Winter Solstice are the more important. The account of these ceremonies, witnessed at two of the five villages practicing them, is given in detail. The author states that the ritual is the result of growth by composition and mutual reaction, and that it will prove to be "particularly instructive to the student of the migrations of the ancient peoples of Arizona, especially those of the Sun and Rain Cloud clans, which, it is claimed, came to Tusayan from the far south."

The value of the paper is enhanced by the addition of a bibliography of the extensive literature by the author upon the elaborate "ceremoniology" of the Tusayan pueblos.

F. R.

GENERAL BIOLOGY.

Regressive Evolution in Biology and Sociology.² — The well-known authors associated in this work contribute special knowledge in their respective departments, with the aim of elucidating especially the phenomena of vestiges in sociology from the facts of biology. Between the sciences of facts, indeed, a marked parallelism can be traced.

The work considers first regressive evolution generally, and the conclusion is drawn that all transformations of organs and institutions are accompanied by regression, and that, since all the higher organisms contain reduced organs, and all social institutions contain survivals, regressive evolution is universal.

Regression does not proceed backward along the same path as

¹ J. Walter Fewkes, *American Anthropologist*, vol. xi, p. 38.

² J. Demoor, J. Massart, et É. Vandervelde, *L'Évolution regressive en biologie et en sociologie*. Paris, Alcan, 1897, 324 pp.

that which development had pursued ; also, it is not reversible — that is, an organ once lost cannot reappear, nor can a degenerate remnant again fully develop.

Regressive evolution is caused by the limitation of the means of subsistence — food, capital, or forces for work. In biology it has for its principal if not its only factors, the struggle for existence between the organs and the struggle for existence between the organisms. In sociology artificial selection plays a preponderating rôle, natural selection a secondary one. The occasional causes of regressive evolution are inutility of function, the insufficiency of nutrition or of resources, and, in biology alone, the lack of room. An institution or an organ which has ceased to be functional and has lost all utility, direct or indirect, persists, however, if one or other of the factors of atrophy, variability, or selection is not at work.

The book is written in an interesting, somewhat popular style, and is illustrated by numerous figures in the text.

ZOÖLOGY.

The Mammals of Florida.¹— In Mr. Bangs's recent account of the mammals of peninsular Florida and the coast region of Georgia we have the first attempt at an exhaustive enumeration of the mammals of a definite geographical area from what may be termed the point of view of the new era in the history of North American mammalogy. It therefore gives a good opportunity of contrasting the new with the old in this field of research. Of papers based on large collections of mammals from restricted areas, and also of monographic reviews of particular groups, there has been no lack in recent years, but none has before attempted to treat exhaustively the mammalian fauna of a well-defined and considerable area.

It is needless to say that Mr. Bangs approaches his subject from the radical point of view of the "new school," and it is therefore of interest to contrast our knowledge of to-day, as here reflected, of the mammalian fauna of Florida with that of, say, twenty years ago. Fortunately, Mr. Bangs's "Comparative Table" of the principal previous lists of the mammals of the region under review renders

¹ Outram Bangs, *The Land Mammals of Peninsular Florida and the Coast Region of Georgia*, *Proc. Boston Soc. Nat. Hist.*, vol. xxviii, No. 7, March, 1898, pp. 157-235, with text cuts.